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**SOVIET NAVAL SHIPS AND  
ARMS SHIPMENTS AT ADEN  
SOUTH YEMEN  
APRIL 1978 — APRIL 1979**

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## SOVIET NAVAL SHIPS AND ARMS SHIPMENTS AT ADEN, SOUTH YEMEN, APRIL 1978 – APRIL 1979 (TSR)

1. [ ] This report is a summary of Soviet naval ships and arms shipments observed at Aden Port Facilities, South Yemen [ ], from April 1978 through April 1979. The report contains a location map, six annotated photographs, and two tables.

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2. [ ] A complete listing of Soviet naval combatant and merchant ships observed at Aden (Figure 1) is provided in Table 1. Table 2 lists significant arms transfers and new equipment observed in South Yemen. Some observations from these tables are discussed briefly.

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3. [ ] Soviet arms are delivered to South Yemen by merchant ship, then by barge and land transport to designated facilities for checkout/assembly.

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4. [ ] a Soviet Leninsky Komsomol-class merchant ship with two probable FITTER fuselage shipping containers and two probable FITTER wing shipping containers (Figure 2) was at the port; [ ], the FITTER wing shipping containers had been transferred to a barge (Figure 3) which was tied up at a mole in the inner harbor. [ ] at Aden International Airfield [ ], nine FITTER fuselage shipping containers and four FITTER wing shipping containers were observed (Figure 4) after being transported 2.2 nautical miles by MAZ-537 prime mover(s) from the barge. [ ] an assembled FITTER C/D aircraft (Figure 5), the first observed in South Yemen.

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5. [ ] STYX missile shipping containers were also observed for the first time in South Yemen at Aden International Airfield [ ]. Two months earlier at Aden International Airfield, ZSU-23/4 self-propelled antiaircraft guns were observed for the first time. Other equipment newly identified in South Yemen since April 1978 has included BTR-60P, BTR-60PB, and the BRDM-2 antitank guided-missile (ATGM) armored personnel carriers; BM-21 rocket launchers; and possible M-1977 rocket launchers.

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6. [ ] Since early this year, the South Yemen Navy has grown significantly as [ ] when two Osa II guided-missile boats, three Polnocny amphibious landing ships (LST), one T-58 fleet minesweeper (MSF), one T-43 MSF, and one P-6 fast patrol boat were at the Aden naval facility (Figure 6).

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7. [ ] Soviet combatants have been seen regularly at Aden Port Facilities. On [ ] an unusually large Soviet naval presence was observed when one J-class cruise-missile attack submarine (SSG), one Krivak-I guided-missile frigate (FFG), one Don submarine tender (AS), one Alligator LST, and one Vytegrales space vehicle recovery ship (ASVR) were moored in the roadstead (Figure 7).

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Table 1

Soviet Naval Ships Observed at the Port of  
Aden, South Yemen, April 1978 – April 1979

This table in its entirety is classified [REDACTED]

| Date       | Ships Observed*                       | Remarks   |
|------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| [REDACTED] | 1 Sofiyaad Soviet                     |   |
|            | 1 Ailademil Tupolev mership           |   |
|            | 2 Iraqi Polnocny "C"                  |   |
|            | LSMs                                  |   |
|            | 1 Riga FF                             |   |
|            | 1 Mayak A 61                          |   |
|            | 1 A01                                 |   |
|            | 1 Leninskiy Komsomol mership          | With 5 buses & numerous vehs/<br>pieces of equipment          |
|            | 1 Ropucha LST                         |   |
|            | 1 Leninskiy Komsomol mership          |   |
|            | 2 Kommunist-class merships            |   |
|            | 1 Ropucha LST                         |   |
|            | 1 Leninskiy Komsomol mership          |   |
|            | 1 Leninskiy Komsomol mership          |   |
|            | 1 Alligator LST                       |   |
|            | 2 Natya MSTs                          |   |
|            | 1 Ropucha LST                         |   |
|            | 1 Kashin DDG                          |   |
|            | 1 Ropucha LST                         |   |
|            | 1 Alligator LST                       |   |
|            | 1 Ropucha LST                         |   |
|            | 1 Cuban passenger cargo ship (Africa) |   |
|            | 1 Leninskiy Gvardiya-class mership    |   |
|            | 1 Ropucha LST                         |   |
|            | 1 Alligator LST                       |   |
|            | 1 Poltava-class mership               |   |
|            | 1 Kommunist-class mership             | With 7 van trucks & 12 prob<br>vehs as deck cargo             |
|            | 1 Ropucha LST                         |   |
|            | 1 Alligator LST                       | With 3 cargo trucks & 2 unid<br>vehs as deck cargo            |
|            | 1 Poltava-class mership               |   |
|            | 1 Geroi Panfiloutsy-class mership     |   |
|            | 1 Kommunist-class mership             | With prob trucks & vehs/<br>pieces of equipment as deck cargo |

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Table 1. ( Continued )

| Date | Ships Observed*                          | Remarks   |
|------|--|---|
|      | 1 Geroi Panfiloutsy-class<br>mer ship    |   |
|      | 1 Kommunist-class mer ship               |   |
|      | 1 Alligator LST                          |   |
|      | 1 Alligator LST                          |   |
|      | 1 Kushnarenko-class<br>mer ship          |   |
|      | 1 Alligator LST                          |   |
|      | 1 Vytegrales ASVR                        |   |
|      | 1 Petya-II FFL                           |   |
|      | 1 Alligator LST                          |   |
|      | 1 Vytegrales ASVR                        |   |
|      | 1 Alligator LST                          |   |
|      | 1 Vytegrales ASVR                        |   |
|      | 1 Leninskiy Komsomol-class<br>mer ship   |   |
|      | 1 Alligator LST                          |   |
|      | 1 Vytegrales ASVR                        |   |
|      | 1 Kapitan Kushnarenko-<br>class mer ship |   |
|      | 1 Kapitan Kushnarenko-<br>class mer ship |   |
|      | 1 Leninskiy Komsomol-class<br>mer ship   | 10 poss aircraft shipping<br>containers & 8 small aircraft<br>shipping containers as deck cargo         |
|      | 1 Alligator LST                          |   |
|      | 1 Vytegrales ASVR                        |   |
|      | 1 Leninskiy Komsomol-class<br>mer ship   | 2 prob FITTER fuselage shipping<br>containers & 2 prob FITTER wing<br>shipping containers as deck cargo |
|      | 1 Alligator LST                          |   |
|      | 7 Vytegrales ASVR                        |   |
|      | 1 Leninskiy Komsomol-class<br>mer ship   | 2 FITTER fuselage shipping<br>containers & 2 FITTER wing shipping<br>containers as deck cargo           |
|      | 1 Alligator LST                          |   |
|      | 1 Vytegrales ASVR                        |   |
|      | 1 Leninskiy Komsomol-class<br>mer ship   | 2 FITTER fuselage shipping<br>containers & 2 FITTER wing shipping<br>containers as deck cargo           |
|      | 1 Alligator LST                          |   |
|      | 1 Vytegrales ASVR                        |   |
|      | 1 Geroi Panfiloutsy-class<br>mer ship    |   |
|      | 1 Alligator LST                          |   |
|      | 1 Vytegrales ASVR                        |   |

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Table 1. (Continued)

| Date | Ships Observed*                       | Remarks   |
|------|---------------------------------------|---|
|      | 1 Leninskiy Komsomol-class<br>mership | 3 vehs/pieces of equipment as<br>deck cargo   |
|      | 1 Leninskiy Komsomol-class<br>mership |   |
|      | 1 Alligator LST                       | 2 BTR-60PB, 2 BTR-60P, 1 prob<br>BTR-60, 4 cargo trucks, & 2<br>vehs/pieces of equipment as<br>deck cargo |
|      | 1 Vytegrales ASVR                     |   |
|      | 1 Leninskiy Komsomol-class<br>mership |   |
|      | 1 Alligator LST                       |   |
|      | 1 Vytegrales ASVR                     |   |
|      | 1 J-class SSG                         |   |
|      | 1 Krivak-I FFG                        |   |
|      | 1 Don AS                              |   |
|      | 1 Alligator LST                       |   |
|      | 1 Vytegrales ASVR                     |   |
|      | 1 Ropucha LST                         |   |
|      | 1 Leninskiy Komsomol-class<br>mership |   |
|      | 1 Alligator LST                       |   |
|      | 1 Vytegrales ASVR                     |   |
|      | 1 Leninskiy Gvardiya-class<br>mership |   |
|      | 1 Alligator LST                       |   |
|      | 1 Vytegrales ASVR                     |   |
|      | 1 Alligator LST                       |   |
|      | 1 Vytegrales ASVR                     |   |
|      | 1 Leninskiy Komsomol-class<br>mership |   |
|      | 1 Alligator LST                       |   |
|      | 1 Vytegrales ASVR                     |   |
|      | 1 Leninskiy Komsomol-class<br>mership |   |
|      | 1 Leninskiy Gvardiya-class<br>mership |   |
|      | 1 Cuban mership                       |   |
|      | 1 Alligator LST                       |   |
|      | 1 Vytegrales ASVR                     |   |

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Table 1. ( Continued )

| Date | Ships Observed*  | Remarks |
|------|--|---------|
|      | 1 Alligator LST<br>1 Vytegrales ASVR<br>1 Sosnogorsk-class<br>mership<br>1 Prob Soviet mership |         |
|      | 1 Soviet mership   |         |
|      | 1 Alligator LST<br>1 Vytegrales ASVR<br>1 Pyat Soviet<br>1 Komsomol-class mership              |         |
|      | 1 Ropucha LST<br>1 Alligator LST<br>1 Vytegrales ASVR<br>1 Sosnogorsk-class<br>mership         |         |
|      | 1 Alligator LST<br>1 Vytegrales ASVR<br>1 Sosnogorsk-class<br>mership                          |         |
|      | 1 Alligator LST<br>1 Vytegrales ASVR<br>1 Sosnogorsk-class<br>mership                          |         |
|      | 1 Alligator LST<br>1 Vytegrales ASVR<br>1 Sosnogorsk-class<br>mership                          |         |
|      | 1 Alligator LST<br>1 Sosnogorsk-class<br>mership   |         |
|      | 1 Alligator LST<br>1 Kazbek AO   |         |
|      | 1 Alligator LST<br>1 Vytegrales ASVR   |         |
|      | 1 Alligator LST<br>1 Vytegrales ASVR   |         |
|      | 1 Krivak-I FFG<br>1 Alligator LST<br>1 Vytegrales ASVR   |         |
|      | 1 Alligator LST<br>1 Kazbek AO<br>1 Vytegrales ASVR  |         |
|      | 1 Alligator LST<br>1 Vytegrales ASVR   |         |

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Table 1. (Continued )

| Date | Ships Observed*  | Remarks                      |
|------|--|------------------------------|
|      | 1 Ropucha LST<br>1 Alligator LST<br>1 Vytegrales ASVR<br>1 Prob Akademik Tupolev-class RO-RO                 | With 20 trucks as deck cargo |
|      | 1 Ropucha LST<br>1 Alligator LST<br>1 Vytegrales ASVR<br>1 Prob Akademik Tupolev-class RO-RO                 | With 20 trucks as deck cargo |
|      | 1 Ropucha LST<br>1 Alligator LST   |                              |
|      | 1 Ropucha LST  | Part cloud covered           |
|      | 1 Ropucha LST<br>1 Alligator LST<br>1 Kazbek AO<br>1 Murom-class Soviet<br>1 Geroi Panfiloutsy-class mership |                              |
|      | 1 Ropucha LST<br>1 Alligator LST<br>1 Murom-class<br>1 Vyburg-class mership                                  |                              |
|      | 1 Ropucha LST<br>1 Alligator LST<br>1 Murom-class Soviet   |                              |
|      | 1 Alligator LST<br>1 Murom-class Soviet  |                              |
|      | 1 Alligator LST<br>1 Murom-class Soviet  |                              |
|      | 1 Alligator LST<br>1 Murom-class Soviet<br>1 Sosnogorsk-class mership  |                              |
|      | 1 Alligator LST  |                              |
|      | 1 Alligator LST  |                              |
|      | 1 Alligator LST  |                              |
|      | 1 Ropucha LST  |                              |
|      | 1 Alligator LST  |                              |
|      | 1 Ropucha LST  |                              |
|      | 1 Leninskiy Gvardiya-class mership   |                              |
|      | 1 Soviet A606<br>1 Unid Soviet mership<br>1 East German mership  | With 10 trucks as deck cargo |

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Table 1. ( Continued )

| Date | Ships Observed*                       | Remarks  |
|------|---------------------------------------|--|
|      | 1 Leninskiy Komsomol mership          | With deck cargo of one 2-spot GCA veh, 1 oxygen manufacturing veh, 8 searchlight trucks, 2 UAZ-452 inner marker beacon transmitters, 4 prob R-800 series radio van trucks, 12 buses, & 10 vehs |
|      | 1 Petya-II FFL                        |  |
|      | 1 Romanian Pyat                       |  |
|      | 1 Komsomol-class mership              |  |
|      | 1 Kommunist-class mership             |  |
|      | 1 Petya-II FFL                        |  |
|      | 1 Leninskiy Komsomol-class mership    |  |
|      | 1 Ropucha LST                         |  |
|      | 1 Ropucha LST                         |  |
|      | 1 Ropucha LST                         |  |
|      | 1 Poss Soviet mership                 |  |
|      | 1 Ropucha LST                         |  |
|      | 1 Kapitan Kushnarenko-class mership   |  |
|      | 1 Ropucha LST                         |  |
|      | 1 Kapitan Kushnarenko-class mership   |  |
|      | 1 Kapitan Kushnarenko-class mership   |  |
|      | 1 Unid prob Soviet mership            |  |
|      | 1 Kapitan Kushnarenko-class mership   |  |
|      | 2 Unid prob Soviet merships           |  |
|      | 1 Maksimgorkiy passenger ship         |  |
|      | 1 Vytegrales ASVR                     |  |
|      | 1 Mod Kotlin DD                       |  |
|      | 1 Ropucha LST                         |  |
|      | 1 Ropucha LST                         |  |
|      | 1 Ropucha LST                         |  |
|      | 1 Kapitan Kusitanarenko-class mership |  |
|      | 1 Slavyansk mership                   |  |
|      | 1 Kapitan Kushnarenko-class mership   | With prob trucks on deck   |
|      | 1 Krivak-II FFG                       |  |
|      | 1 Petya-II FFL                        |  |
|      | 1 Ropucha LST                         | Bow doors open & trucks lined up on pier   |

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Table 1. (Continued)

| Date | Ships Observed*   | Remarks |
|------|-------------------|---------|
|      | 1 Krivak-II FFG   |         |
|      | 1 Petya-II FFL    |         |
|      | 1 Petya-II FFL    |         |
|      | 1 Ropucha LST     |         |
|      | No ships          |         |
|      | 1 Vytegrales ASVR |         |

## \*Key to abbreviations:

AO—Oiler

FF—Frigate

AGI—Intelligence collector

FFL—Light frigate

AGOR—Oceanographic research ship

LSM—Medium amphibious assault landing ship

DDG—Guided-missile destroyer

MST—Fleet minesweeper

RO-RO—Roll-on roll-off ship

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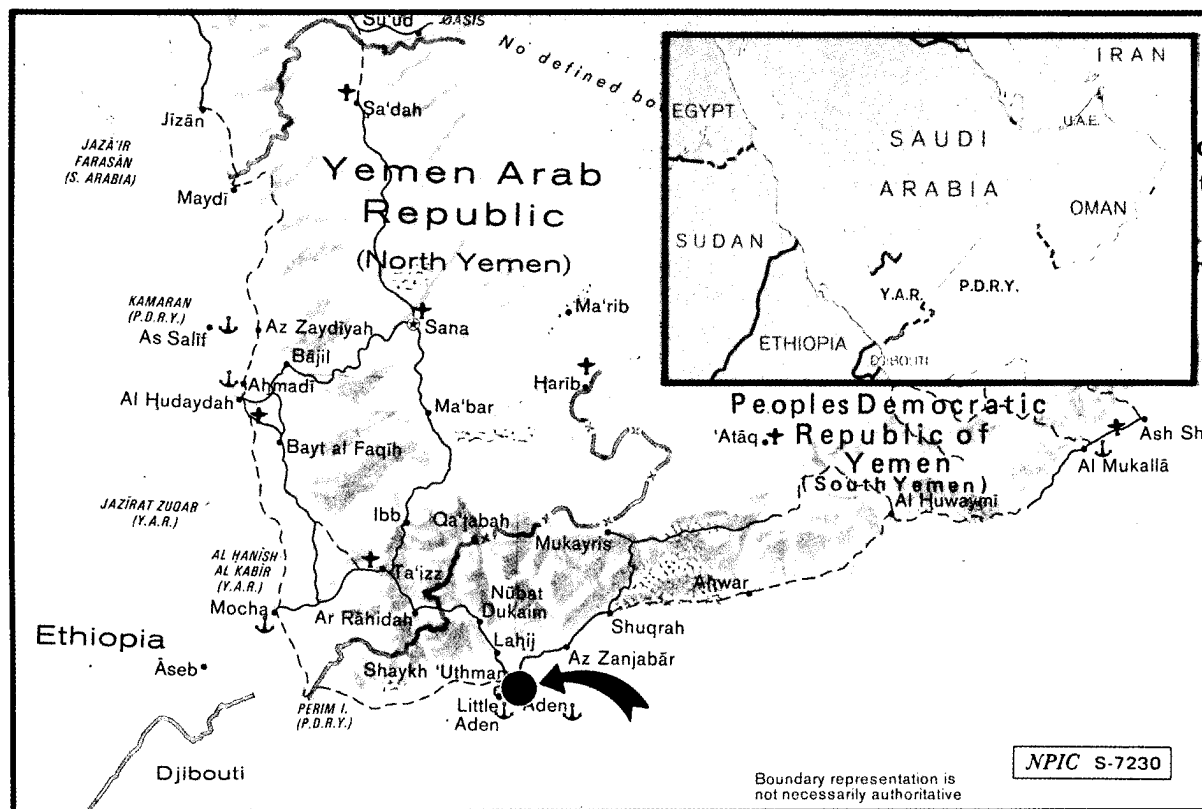


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF ADEN, SOUTH YEMEN

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Table 2

**Significant Arms Shipments and Equipment Observed  
at Aden, South Yemen, April 1978 – April 1979**

| Date | Equipment / Activity Observed   |
|------|---|
|      | 1 Cuban passenger cargo ship (Africa) in port, poss offloading troops<br>First ident of 4 ZSU-23/4 anti-aircraft guns at Aden International Airfield<br>First ident of prob FITTER fuselage & wing shipping containers on deck of<br>a Leninskiy Komsomol-class merchant ship<br>STYX missile shipping containers were ident for the first time at Aden International Airfield<br>2 BTR-60PB, 2 BTR-60P, 1 prob BTR-60 on Alligator LST<br>First observation of FITTER C/D at Aden International Airfield<br>First ident of 12 BRDM-2 ATGM at Aden Ammo Storage & Test Area |
|      | First observation of Soviet MAY antisubmarine warfare (ASW) aircraft at Aden International Airfield   |
|      | New T-58 MSF delivered to South Yemen Navy  |
|      | 1 two-spot GCA veh, 1 oxygen manufacturing veh, 8 searchlight trucks,<br>2 UAZ-452 inner marker beacon transmitters, 4 prob R-800 series radio<br>van trucks, 12 buses, & 10 miscellaneous vehs on the deck of a Leninskiy<br>Komsomol-class merchant ship  |
|      | 18 BM-21 rocket launchers on barge in port facilities   |
|      | First delivery of Osa II guided-missile boat to South Yemen Navy  |
|      | First ident of 4 poss M-1977 rocket launchers at Aden Ammo Storage & Test Area  |
|      | Second Osa II guided-missile boat delivered to South Yemen Navy   |

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